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INFO RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE 3367
RUEHKW/AMCONSUL KRAKOW IMMEDIATE 1789
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 001759

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/15/2017

TAGS: PREL PGOV MARR PL

SUBJECT: GETTING READY FOR SEPTEMBER 6-7 TALKS ON MISSILE DEFENSE

Classified By: DCM Ken Hillas for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) In an August 14 meeting with DCM and Pol Intern, Robert Kupiecki -- principal advisor to Poland's lead Missile Defense (MD) negotiator Witold Waszczykowski -- promised a Polish draft text on an MD basing agreement in a few days. Kupiecki assured us that the Polish draft text on security cooperation, which should be shared with us by late August, would "reflect the content" of our document, and also indicated that the Polish text was legally binding and significantly longer (20 pages long with two annexes). The draft text of the SOFA supplementary agreement will be finished on September 20, he said. He urged the Embassy to press the MOD for a date for SOFA talks in late September, which the Ambassador may have a chance to do in an upcoming meeting with the Defense Minister.

¶2. (C) With regard to the September 6-7 talks, Kupiecki proposed two full days of negotiations: a plenary session the first day and possibly expert-level discussions in the second. Kupiecki said that Poland is prepared to "step up the pace", and suggested that expert groups begin meeting every other week following this round of negotiations, even without the lead negotiators.

¶3. (C) Kupiecki does not think that early elections -- barring even the election of an entirely new government -- would have any serious effect on MD negotiations. He believes that suspension of MD negotiations would send a "bad signal" and is therefore doubtful that there would be a "long pause" after elections. That said, Kupiecki admits that a new government would need some time to review the Polish position on MD.

¶4. (C) Comment: It is understandable that Kupiecki would seek to play down the effect elections may have on the negotiating process. Nevertheless, he has been a reliable interlocutor on such matters and his upbeat prediction about the MFA's desire to speed up the negotiating process is a positive sign.
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